



News & Events

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Former Sunset Magazine Publisher and U.S. Ambassador Bill Lane to Speak at Cal Poly on Jan. 26

SAN LUIS OBISPO – William “Bill” Lane Jr. – conservationist, philanthropist, former U.S. ambassador to Australia and former publisher of Sunset magazine – will speak Jan. 26 at Cal Poly.

Lane will discuss “Going West Again ... and Again” in his talk set for 11:10 a.m. to noon in the right wing of Chumash Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

The presentation is part of the Executive Partners Program through Cal Poly’s Orfalea College of Business. The program brings senior executives and college administrators together with business students for mentoring.

Lane and his brother, Melvin, were co-publishers of Sunset Magazine for nearly 40 years until 1990. The Lanes established the publication as a leading source of environmental information and an important player in environmental initiatives.

Bill Lane served as U.S. ambassador to Australia and Nauru from 1985-89 and as ambassador-at-large and commissioner general at the world’s first international ocean exposition held in Japan in 1975. He is known for working across political divides and was elected the first mayor of his hometown of Portola Valley, Calif.

Lane and his wife, Jean, are longtime supporters of Cal Poly and its “learn by doing” education model and received honorary doctorates from Cal Poly and the CSU in 2008. In particular, they have supported Cal Poly initiatives on behalf of science and mathematics education in elementary, middle and high schools across the state.

Jean Lane served on Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker’s advisory President’s Cabinet for 26 years, until 2007. And the Lanes were among the financial supporters who in 2002 helped create the Baker Forum, which gathers top international science and technology leaders from universities and industry to tackle issues and develop creative solutions.

The Lanes' daughter, Brenda Lane Munks, graduated from Cal Poly in 1986 with a degree in recreation administration.

For more information on Lane's Jan. 26 talk, contact Tamara Vassey in the Orfalea College of Business at 805-756-7446 or tivassey@calpoly.edu.

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